



21st Theater Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
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Fallen 16th Sust. Bde. Heroes honored in ceremony

By the 16th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs Office

BAMBERG, Germany – Two Soldiers from the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, were memorialized Nov. 4 when their names were added to the 21st Theater Sustainment Command Fallen Soldiers Memorial during a ceremony on Panzer Kaserne in Kaiserslautern.

Staff Sgt. Derek Farley of the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company and Staff Sgt. Anton Phillips of the 5th Maintenance Company were added to the 19 names on the memorial of fallen Soldiers who have served under the 21st TSC.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, was the guest speaker at the wreath laying and retreat ceremony, which was attended by more than 300 Soldiers and civilians.

“It’s an honor to speak at an event that honors those who sacrificed so much for our country,” said Preston. “America owes each of our fallen and wounded warriors a debt of gratitude for their bravery, commitment and their selfless sacrifice.”

Preston, along with Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, the commanding general of the 21st TSC, and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, the command sergeant major of the 21st TSC, laid a wreath at the 21st TSC’s Fallen Soldiers Memorial to honor the 21st TSC warriors who lost their lives while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Keith Sledd, commander of the 16th Sust. Bde., unveiled the names of the two Soldiers as they were read aloud during the ceremony.

“It’s important that we remember all the Soldiers that served,” said Sledd. “It’s especially important to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their nation and for their fellow Soldiers.”

Farley, 24, of Nassau, N.Y., was killed Aug. 17, while dismantling an Improvised Explosive Device at Bala Boluk, Farah Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A team leader for the 702nd EOD Co., Farley was fondly remembered by friends, family and comrades during a memorial service at the Grafenwoehr Chapel last August, and died, they said, doing what he loved most.

“I thought Staff Sgt. Farley was one of the best young EOD team leaders I’ve ever been privileged to have worked with.” said Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Daniels, the 702nd EOD Co. operations sergeant. “There have been few guys that I’ve known in my career that I’ve respected and loved as much as Derek. In many ways, I considered him the little brother I never had but had always wished for.”

“Derek embodied the guy who was everyone’s friend and loved to give that one armed shoulder hug when you walked over,” said Spc. Johnathan Gilley, a 702nd EOD Co. communications specialist.

“Derek never had an enemy or a problem he couldn’t solve. He lived and loved everyone so deeply,” added Gilley. “It was once said people loving deeply have no fear of death. I can attest to that. Derek loved deeply and gave his life proudly so other Soldiers could come home. He had no fear of death and gave his life so that others may live.”

“We will honor Derek in all we do. There is a long line of EOD Soldiers, past and present, who will never forget their friend, their beloved brother in arms and their hero,” said Capt. Stewart McGurk, the 702nd EOD Co. commander.

Phillips, 31, from Inglewood, Calif., died Dec. 31, 2009 while serving at Forward Operating Base Methar Lam, Afghanistan. A husband and father to three girls, Phillips worked as a track vehicle mechanic for the 5th Maint. Co.

More than 200 Soldiers came to pay their respects to Phillips at a memorial ceremony Jan. 3 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, where he was remembered by his comrades as not only a great noncommissioned officer, but also a friend.

“Staff Sgt. Phillips was a great leader and one of the best NCOs in the platoon. If you had a problem he would help you immediately and work his tail off to get you an answer as fast as he could,” said Spc. William Runyon, a Soldier with the 5th Maint. Co. and a native of Jonesboro, Ariz.

“He was a true friend and I will miss him,” Runyon added. “The last thing I will say is that I will always keep Staff Sergeant Phillips in my heart and hope his kids know that their Dad was a real hero.”

“Staff Sgt. Phillips was beyond reliable. We constantly gave him tough assignments and he always managed to get them done in time. More importantly, though, he earned the respect of his Soldiers,” said 5th Maint. Co. platoon leader 1st Lt. Craig A. Long, at Phillips memorial ceremony in Afghanistan. “He was more than just a team leader; he was a friend, and his door was always open to anyone, day or night. He will be dearly missed.”

Sgt. James Ide V of the 18th Military Police Brigade who died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire Aug. 29, in Hyderabad, Afghanistan, was also added to the memorial during the ceremony.



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston; the commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command; Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, the command sergeant major of the 21st TSC; Col. Keith Sledd, the commander of the 16th Sustainment Brigade; and Col. Thomas Evans, the commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade, render honors while standing in front of the 21st TSC's Fallen Soldiers Memorial during a wreath laying ceremony Nov. 4. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor, 21st TSC Public Affairs)



OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN
ENDURING ALL AND GIVING ALL
THAT MANKIND MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM AND IN PEACE
THEY JOIN THAT GLORIOUS BAND OF HEROES
WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE

